

Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)

From: Jennifer Wampler [jennifer@dcv-virginia.ccsend.com] on behalf of Jennifer Wampler [jennifer.wampler@dcv.virginia.gov]
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Greenways and Trails Program E-News

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Welcome to the DCR Greenways and Trails Program News Group. Scroll down for information on how to unsubscribe or update your preferences.



Congratulations to Martinsville-Henry County and their partners for completion of a 4.5-mile section of the Dick and Willie Trail, which runs from Collinsville and the City of Martinsville to Mulberry Creek in Henry County. This trail is part of the statewide [Beaches to Bluegrass Trail](#), proposed to connect the Cumberland Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay.

Recreational Trails Program Accepting Applications

The Virginia Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is currently accepting Preliminary Applications through January 7, 2011. The RTP is a competitive, federal, matching reimbursement program administered by the Department of Conservation & Recreation in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, for the construction, rehabilitation and/or maintenance of trails and trail related facilities. The program requires that 30% of the funding be used for motorized trails, 30% for non-motorized trail and 40% for diversified/multi-use trails.

The 2010-2011 RTP grant competition will consist of two stages: the Preliminary Application followed by the full Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Application (PDESA). Only selected

Funding opportunities in Virginia

[Grants.gov](#) is the federal funding site for 1000 grant programs offered by 26 agencies.

Free Training!

Road Diets Webinar

November 3, 2010 2:00 - 3:30 PM
[Register](#) today!

Road diets can create space for pedestrians and bicyclists while improving overall safety along a corridor. This presentation will provide participants with up-to-date knowledge on design considerations for these street transformations, as well as background information that can be used to justify lane reductions. This Webinar is the seventh part in the Designing for Pedestrian Safety series. To access archived presentations in this series, click [here](#).

VRPS Awards

At their annual conference this fall, the Virginia Recreation and Park Society awarded the following Best New Blueway, Greenway or Trail Awards: For a population less than 25,000, [Smith Run Trail](#) in Fredericksburg won the day and for a population greater than 150,000, the [John J. Radcliffe Appomattox River Conservation Area Trail](#) took highest honors. In the miscellaneous category, [High Bridge Trail State Park](#) placed first.

Congratulations --great work!!!

Measuring Demand

The Outdoor Industry Association publishes many reports that help measure demand for your proposed trail project. The [Outdoor Recreation Economy Report](#) demonstrates that active outdoor recreation is a huge economic driver throughout the United States. Their [participation studies](#) provide information on specific sports like trail running and paddlesports. Read [more](#) about the Outdoor Industry Association and the Outdoor Foundation.

candidates will be invited to complete the PDESA. The intent of the RTP is to assist in the development of trail opportunities that are primarily recreational in nature rather than those serving a more utilitarian transportation function. Therefore, funding preference will be given to those projects that are only eligible for funding through the RTP.

Program information and application materials are available [online](#). For specific questions, contact Synthia Waymack at 804.786.4379.

Enhancement program grants for EXISTING PROJECTS only are due on December 1. Applications are available online through [VDOT's Local Assistance Division](#).

Both grant programs are funded through the federal [SAFETEA-LU](#) program. This law expires on December 31. Congress will weigh a new, 1-2 year extension of the law after elections this fall. Read more about federal reauthorization of trail funding at [American Trails](#).

James River Heritage Trail Stakeholder Meetings



Approximately 50 people attended stakeholder meetings in October to provide input on the draft James River Heritage Trail Conceptual Plan. The draft plan will be ready to send out to municipalities and other stakeholders this winter for final comments. If you are not already on the email list for this trail, and would like to comment on this draft plan, email jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov.

The [National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program](#) is assisting DCR and corridor stakeholders with the development of a trail concept plan that links communities and resources along this braided network of land and water trails from the Chesapeake Bay to the headwaters of the James.

National Trails Symposium only a few weeks away!

Register Now!

*The [American Trails National Symposium](#) is your best opportunity to **network with the nationwide trails community and learn state of the art trail planning, development, and management techniques**. The Symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized issues and a nationwide vision for trails and greenways. Dozens of speakers and keynote presenters will meet in Chattanooga, TN from November 14-17, 2010.*

If you attended the Pro Walk/ Pro Bike 2010 conference this September, also held in Chattanooga, conference presentations are available [online](#).

National Trails Taking Shape in Virginia

Did you know that Virginia is home to six national scenic trails? Planning for several is underway and you can be part of the process.



*DCR Trails Program Mission:
Provide assistance and education
to encourage the development,
maintenance and promotion of
attractive, sustainable and
connected trails throughout the
state.*

Jennifer Wampler, Trails
Coordinator
jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov
Virginia Dept of Conservation &
Recreation, Division of
Planning and Recreation
Resources

Captain John Smith National Historic Trail

The draft comprehensive plan for the Nation's first water trail is out for public review. This plan presents the proposed management actions for approximately 3,000 miles of watertrail on the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, and will guide development and management over the next 15-20 years. Comments are due Nov. 5, click [here](#) to comment.

Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

In November, the National Park Service is hosting a series of workshops to provide information about the trail and seek your input on how it should develop and be managed. There is a stakeholder workshop in Alexandria (Huntley Meadows Regional Park) on November 3rd from 10 am to noon at 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria VA 22306. Another stakeholder workshop will be held in Georgetown, DC, at the Dumbarton House, 2715 Q Street, NW from 10 am to noon on November 9th. Click [here](#) for more information.

A Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Commission has been established to prepare for and commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of Virginia's Participation in the American War of 1812. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has approved 13 new historical highway markers that tell the stories of people, places, and events associated with the War of 1812 in Virginia. The full text of all of the newly approved markers can be found [here](#).

The 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails will be hosted this year from May 15-19 in the Town of Abingdon: The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail both begin in Abingdon, so save the dates for this trail networking opportunity.

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